

**LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Item No.** 1.G  
**Mtg. Date** September 6, 2016  
**Dept.** Public Works

**Item Title:** Award a Contract to Weathermatic for the Irrigation Controller Replacement Project

**Staff Contact:** Mike James, Assistant City Manager / Public Works Director

**Recommendation:**

Adopt a resolution (**Attachment B**) awarding a contract to Weathermatic for the irrigation controller replacement project. |

**Item Summary:**

For the past several years San Diego County has experienced significantly dry seasons that impacted both the availability and cost of water. Staff has worked closely with Helix Water District to share information with city residents and help promote conservation efforts in the city. In an effort to improve the City's water conservation efforts staff identified smart irrigation controllers to efficiently control the amount of water used in the parks, city facilities, and in the city right-of-way. City staff is recommending a partnership with Weatherthermatic to evaluate the city's current system, recommend areas that may be improved with new smart irrigation controller technology, and lastly to purchase and install irrigation controllers citywide.

The staff report (**Attachment A**) details the city's past efforts with water conservation, describes the grant program that Weatherthermatic proposes to use in partnership with the city, what technology will be purchased, the fiscal impacts of this project, and concludes with staff's recommendation to award a contract to Weatherthermatic in an amount not to exceed \$47,520.00. |

**Fiscal Impact:**

This project was not budgeted in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Staff requests that the City Council allocate \$47,520.00 to the Public Works Department, Grounds Division, Contract Services budget (01-50-13-5470) for the initial expenditure which will be fully reimbursed after the project is completed. |

**Environmental Review:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review         | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section [       ] | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

**Public Information:**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article   | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 300 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting |   |

**Attachments:**

- A. Staff Report
- B. Resolution



## LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 1.G

Mtg. Date September 6, 2016

Item Title: **Award a Contract to Weathermatic for the Irrigation Controller Replacement Project**

Staff Contact: **Mike James, Assistant City Manager / Public Works Director**

### Discussion:

For the past several years San Diego County has experienced significantly dry seasons that impacted both the availability and cost of water. Staff has worked closely with Helix Water District to share information with city residents and help promote conservation opportunities in the city. In keeping with the theme of water conservation, city staff has systematically installed irrigation controllers at various locations throughout the city each year. The cost to install each irrigation controller has been funded through general fund monies allocated within the grounds division budget. However, due to increasing equipment costs no controllers were funded the last two fiscal years.

In March 2016, staff was approached by Weathermatic staff regarding a partnership to purchase and install new smart irrigation controllers in the city. The SoCal WaterSmart Agency program, also known as the public agency landscape (PAL) program, is a fully reimbursable rebate program that will reimburse all costs for new Weathermatic irrigation controllers including installation costs.

Weathermatic is a nationwide vendor that has products in use throughout San Diego County. The benefits of partnering with Weathermatic for the PAL program include:

- It includes all costs to purchase and install the Smartlink Wireless Landscape Network Flow Bundle. The bundle consists of the SL4800 controller, SLW5 weather sensor, and aircard;
- Includes a five year cellular subscription that provides real time reporting;
- Extends the three year warranty to five years, which includes usage, theft and vandalism; and
- Provides full training to city employees after the controllers are installed.

After working closely with Weathermatic staff it was determined that the maximum number of locations in the city that qualified for the rebate program was 37. Staff anticipated this amount was the not-to-exceed number of sites because it included all controllers in the city. After reviewing each site, staff recommends that only 18 of the sites should be replaced with new irrigation controllers. Of the 19 sites not recommended for replacement 9 have existing smart irrigation controllers and 10 operate with a battery power source which are not compatible with the technology upgrade of the rebate program.

While staff was performing the site analysis, it should be noted that the PAL program had an application deadline of June 30, 2016. Staff worked with Weathermatic staff to complete the pre-qualification application for 28 sites (18 sites that are now identified as good PAL program candidates and 10 sites that are battery operated which are not compatible the technology upgrade). The cost to retrofit the 18 sites is estimated to equal \$47,520.00 to purchase the equipment and install at each site. This program is a 100 percent funded by the PAL program and will not cost the City any funding for the upfront capital investment and first five years of the program. Beginning in year six, the estimated annual cellular subscription cost operate each site

# Attachment A

is \$11 per site - per month (\$2,376 per year for all 18 sites) which will fund the cellular service to monitor each site.

If approved, the Weathermatic will order the equipment, detailed above, for all 18 sites, work with staff to schedule the installation, and train city staff once all sites are installed and fully operational. The anticipated timeline to complete this work is expected to occur within 90 days of the City Council's approval.

In keeping with the purchasing guidelines as shown in Lemon Grove Municipal Code Section 03.24.100 (D), staff has concluded that the irrigation controllers identified by Weathermatic are consistent with the standard irrigation controller projects that have been purchased and installed by the City for the past five years. As with prior projects, the City Manager was the approving authority for prior purchases. |

## Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopts a resolution (**Attachment A**) awarding a contract to Weathermatic for the irrigation controller replacement project in an amount not to exceed \$47,520.00. |

# Attachment B

## RESOLUTION NO. 2016 -

### RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO WEATHERMATIC FOR THE IRRIGATION CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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**WHEREAS**, San Diego County has experienced a significant number of dry seasons that have impacted the availability of water and the cost of water for the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City continues to work closely with the Helix Water District to reduce the amount of water used, share information about conservations efforts to its residents, and implement new programs/equipment that will help reduce the amount of water used in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past five years, staff has systematically purchased and installed irrigation controller units in high usage areas; and

**WHEREAS**, staff was contacted by Weathermatic to apply for the SoCal WaterSmart Agency program, also known as the Public Agency Landscape Rebate – PAL Program which will fully fund new irrigation controllers and the cost to install each one; and

**WHEREAS**, 18 locations in the city were identified as qualified locations to apply for the PAL program; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will continue to support the city's efforts to conserve water usage in the right-of-way's and at its facilities citywide; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds it in the public interest that a contract for said products and services be awarded.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California hereby:

1. Awards a contract (Contract No. 2017-05) in the base amount of forty-seven thousand five hundred twenty dollars and zero cents (\$47,520.00) to Weathermatic, and
2. Authorizes the City Manager or her designee to execute and manage all contract documents.

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